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In the Claims:

  1. (Currently amended) A system for detecting a watermark in host data which includes:

a pre-filter which removes aspects of the host data that are not carrying a watermark signal,

thereby enhancing the signal to noise [rations] ratio of the watermark signal, and

a watermark detection mechanism, which utilizes knowledge of characteristics of a watermark to

detect the presence of a watermark..

  2. (Original)   The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is image data.

  3. (Original)   The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is audio data.

  4. (Original)   The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is video data.

  5. (Currently amended) A method of extracting digital watermark data from host data

which includes,

  receiving said host data as input to a watermark detection operation to detect a watermark

signal embedded in said host data; and

  pre-filtering said host data prior to the watermark detection operation thereby enhancing

the signal to noise [ratios] ratio of the watermark signal.

  6. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 5 wherein said pre-filtering

comprises first applying a highpass operator to said host data and then applying a nonlinear

operator to said data.

  7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is image data.

  8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is audio data.

  9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is video data.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said highpass operator is a Laplacian operator.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said nonlinear operator is a Signum operator.

12. (Original) The method of detecting a watermark signal in host data which includes, first filtering said host data using a high pass Laplacian filter, applying a nonlinear signum function to the output of said high pass filter, and then detecting the presence of a watermark signal in said filtered data.

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